a lid comprising a means for sealing said opening, said lid having a top surface and a bottom surface and a bore therethrough; and

a plug comprising,

an upper and lower shoulder, at least one of said shoulders is deformable, wherein said plug is seated in said bore of said lid so that said upper shoulder is seated on said top surface of said lid and said lower shoulder is seated on said bottom surface of said lid;

a membrane capable of being penetrated with a material transfer device and which self-reseals to prevent leakage from said receptacle; and

a material transfer device guide for directing said material transfer device into said plug and through said self-sealing membrane, wherein said material transfer device guide has an outer diameter and wherein said plug further comprises one or more means for altering said outer diameter of said material transfer device guide to enable said guide to adaptably flex in order to accommodate material transfer devices having varying outer diameters.

Remarks

The applicant has complied with the requirements of the office action as follows:

1. in claim 4, "and" has been replaced with "said"

2. in claims 1. 25 and 31, "means to seal" has been replaced with "means for sealing"

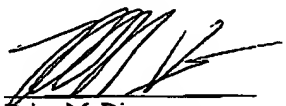
3. claim 3 has been made dependent on claim 25, which does not describe the plug cover as connected to the plug by a flexible cord

4. claim 25 has been amended in line with claim 31 to describe the slits as enabling the guide to flex (see p. 6 lines 4-8)

5. The objection to the specification has been resolved by the above amendment to claim 25, and also as follows: p. 6 lines 4-8 and p. 17 lines 3-8, as two examples, describe the slits as allowing the device guide to flex to accommodate different size devices. When the device guide is a bore, the flex will alter the outer diameter.

All objections and rejections have been resolved, and allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Appendix of marked version of amended claims

1. (twice amended) A specimen container, adapted to enable a user to inject or withdraw materials into or out of said container using a material transfer device with minimal risk of spills or leaks, comprising,

a receptacle having an opening;

a lid comprising a means for sealing [to seal] said opening, said lid having a top surface and a bottom surface and a bore therethrough; and

a plug comprising,

an upper and lower shoulder, at least one of said shoulders is deformable, wherein said plug is seated in said bore of said lid so that said upper shoulder is seated on said top surface of said lid and said lower shoulder is seated on said bottom surface of said lid[, and];

a membrane capable of being penetrated with a material transfer device and which self-reseals to prevent leakage from said receptacle; and

a plug cover which covers a top surface of said plug and which is capable of being raised and lowered by a user's one hand leaving the user's other hand free to insert a specimen into, or withdraw a specimen from, the specimen container, wherein said plug and said plug cover are connected to each other by a flexible cord.

3. (twice amended) The specimen container of claim 25 [1], wherein said plug cover is hingedly fixed to said lid.

4. (twice amended) The specimen container of claim 1, wherein said plug cover further comprises a flange which surrounds said upper shoulder of said [and] plug when in a lowered position.

25. (twice amended) A specimen container, adapted to enable a user to inject or withdraw materials into or out of said container using a material transfer device with minimal risk of spills or leaks, comprising,

a receptacle having an opening;

a lid comprising a means for sealing [to seal] said opening, said lid having a top surface and a bottom surface and a conduit, extending into said receptacle downward from said bottom surface of said lid, through which a bore having a diameter extends and which comprises a distal lower lip;

a plug having a top surface comprising,

an upper and lower shoulder, wherein said plug is seated in said bore of said lid so that said upper shoulder is seated on said top surface of said lid and said lower shoulder is seated on said lower lip of said conduit,

a membrane capable of being penetrated by said material transfer device and which self-reseals to prevent leakage from said receptacle,

a material transfer device guide having a perimeter and an outer diameter and centered in said conduit, comprising a well which extends downward from said top surface of said plug and into said conduit, and which comprises an annular wall which extends into said conduit to a floor of said well, wherein said floor forms said membrane, and

a plurality of expandable slits which radiate outward from said perimeter of said material transfer device guide and which enable said [outer diameter of said] guide to flex[ibly expand] in order to accommodate material transfer devices having varying outer diameters; and

a plug cover which covers a top surface of said plug and which is capable of being raised and lowered by a user's one hand leaving the user's other hand free to insert a specimen into, or withdraw a specimen from, the specimen container.

31. (once amended) A specimen container, adapted to enable a user to inject or withdraw materials into or out of said container using a material transfer device with minimal risk of spills or leaks, comprising,

a receptacle having an opening;

a lid comprising a means for sealing [to seal] said opening, said lid having a top surface and a bottom surface and a bore therethrough; and

a plug comprising,

an upper and lower shoulder, at least one of said shoulders is deformable, wherein said plug is seated in said bore of said lid so that said upper shoulder is seated on said top surface of said lid and said lower shoulder is seated on said bottom surface of said lid;

a membrane capable of being penetrated with a material transfer device and which self-reseals to prevent leakage from said receptacle; and

a material transfer device guide for directing said material transfer device into said plug and through said self-sealing membrane, wherein said material transfer device guide has an outer diameter and wherein said plug further comprises one or more means for altering said outer diameter of said material transfer device guide to enable said guide to adaptably flex in order to accommodate material transfer devices having varying outer diameters.